

Thinker's Keys



These Thinkers keys have been developed by Tony Ryan which enable children to develop their higher order thinking through the posing and answering of questions / solving problems. These Keys can be related to any topic. Tony Ryan was influenced by 'The Thinkers Toolbox' (Thornburg and Thornburg 1989)

	THINKING	RELATING TO OTHERS	USING TEXTS AND SYMBOLS	MANAGING SELF	PARTICIPATING
THE REVERSE	Creative,		Oral language	Strategies for meeting challenges	
WHAT IF	Critical, metacognitive		Eg: ideas wheel		Making connections
DISADVANTAGES	Creative	Active listening, negotiation	Eg: tables	Resourcefulness, strategies for meeting challenges	
COMBINATION	Creative	Diverse range of contexts, interacting, listening	Eg: tables, Venn diagram	Resourcefulness	Actively involved, contributing to group
BAR	Critical and creative		Technologies and pictures	Resiliency, enterprise	
ALPHABET	Creative, decision making, metacognitive		Eg: tables	Strategies for meeting challenges	Make connections
VARIATIONS	Creative, making decisions	Active listening, cooperation	Eg: diagrams, writing explanations		Collaborating
PICTURE	Creative, developing understanding, challenging perceptions, past knowledge use	Competition	Technologies and pictures	Strategies for meeting challenges	Contributing appropriately
PREDICTION	Critical, metacognitive, intellectual curiosity	Open to new learning, active listening	Technologies		
DIFFERENT USES	Challenge assumptions	Variety of contexts			

RIDICULOUS	Challenge assumptions, develop understanding	Open to new learning		Resourcefulness and meeting challenges	Actively involved
COMMONALITY	Reflect on learning		Eg: Venn diagram	Self assessment	
QUESTION	Reflect on own thinking, ask questions, creative	Different roles in different situations	Oral - construct questions		
BRAINSTORMING	Reflect on learning, ask questions	Listening	Graphic organisers		Collaborating, contributing appropriately
INVENTIONS	Creative	Resourceful, resilient	Technologies and pictures	Manage a project	
BRICK WALL	Critical asking questions	Negotiating open to new learning, variety of contexts			
CONSTRUCTION	Creative	Resilient	Eg: diagrams	Strategies for meeting challenges	Participating, contributing appropriately
FORCED RELATIONSHIPS	Creative, challenging perceptions	Variety of contexts		Strategies for meeting challenges	
ALTERNATIVE	Challenging perceptions	Manage project, open to new learning		Strategies for meeting challenges	
INTERPRETATION	Challenge perceptions, creative, intellectually curious	Negotiation		Resourcefulness	

P.S Be mindful that these Thinkers Keys can be used both individually and in groups. This would therefore change which KC's it best fits and how.